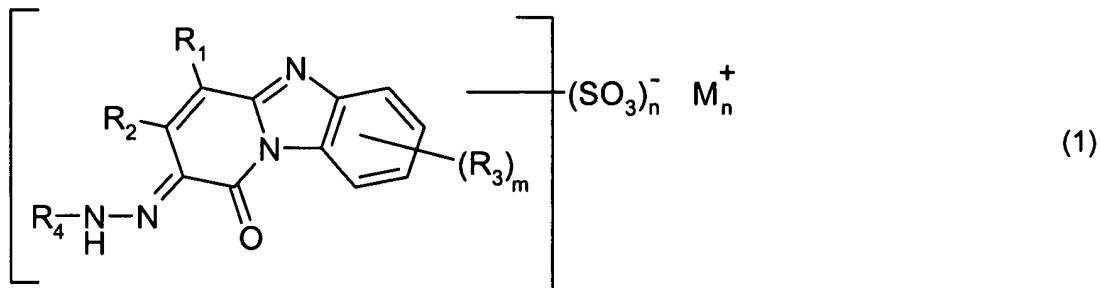


In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An azo dye of formula



wherein

R₁ is -CN, -COOR₅, -CONR₆R₇ or a heterocyclic ring, R₂ is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, -CF₃, -COOR₅, -CONR₆R₇ or -COR₅, R₃ is hydrogen, -SO₃M, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, -NO₂ or halogen, R₄ is substituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl or an aryl-N=N-aryl radical, wherein one or both of the aryl radicals in aryl-N=N-aryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, or a radical heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl, wherein one or both of the heteroaryl radicals in heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, R₅ is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R₆ is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl,

M⁺ is a ~~cation~~, phosphonium salt or N(R₈)₄⁺, wherein the substituents R₈ are each independently of the others hydrogen, C₁-C₁₆alkyl or C₁-C₄ alcohol

n is a number 1, 2 or 3 and m is a number 1, 2 or 3,

and when n is a number 2 or 3, each M⁺ can be the same or different.

2. (original) An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is -CN or -CONH₂.

3. (previously presented) An azo dye according to either claim 1, wherein R₂ is methyl, isopropyl, -CF₃, phenyl or p-methoxyphenyl.

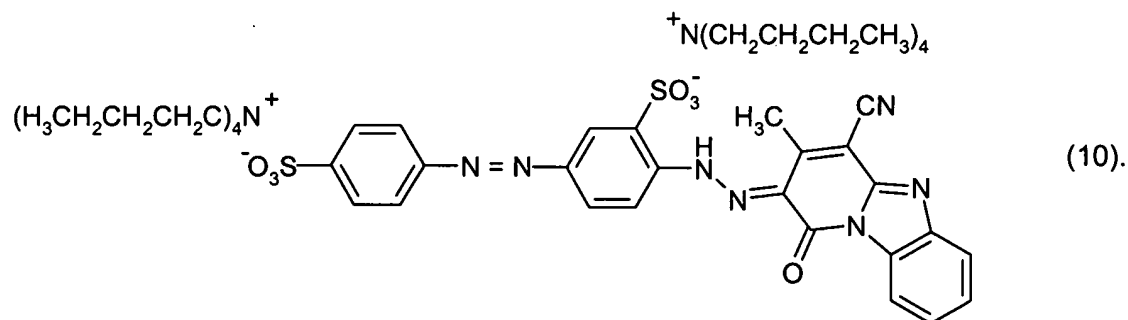
4. (previously presented) An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is hydrogen, chlorine or -SO₃M.

5. (previously presented) An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R_4 is phenyl substituted by methyl and/or by methoxy and/or by $-NO_2$ and/or by $-CF_3$ and/or one or more times by $-SO_3M$, or is phenyl-N=N-phenyl, wherein one of the phenyl radicals or both phenyl radicals independently of one another is/are unsubstituted or substituted as indicated above.

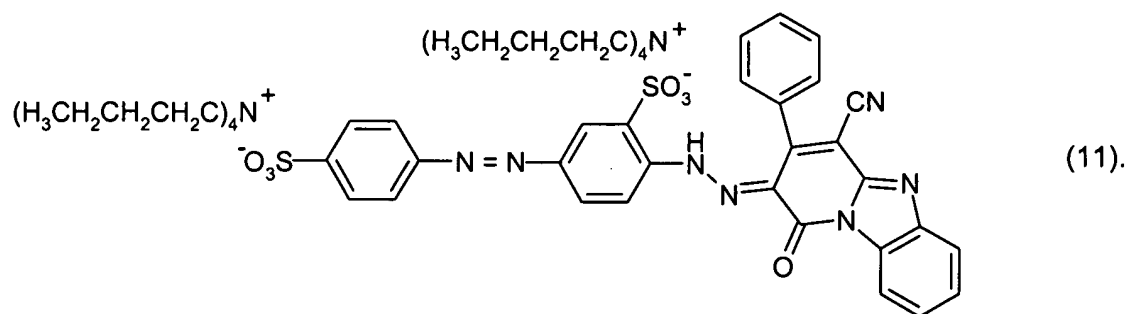
6. (currently amended) An azo dye according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1, wherein R_4 is naphthyl substituted one or more times by $-SO_3M$.

7. (currently amended) An azo dye according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cation M^+ is Primene 81, $N^+[(CH_2)_3CH_3]_4$, $N^+(C_{16}H_{33})(CH_3)_3$ or $N^+(C_{10}H_{21})_2(CH_3)_2$.

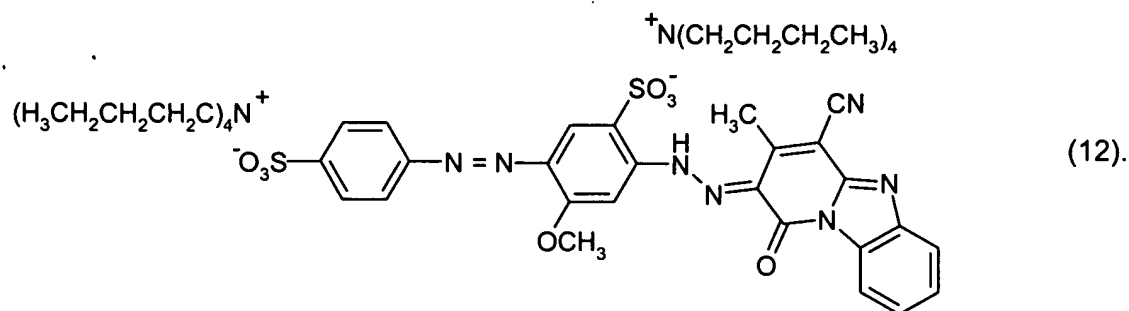
8. (original) An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



9. (original) An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



10. (original) An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



11. (cancelled)

12. (original) A process for the production of coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles, in which one or more azo dyes of formula (1) according to claim 1 is/are incorporated into those materials.

13 (cancelled)

14. (original) The coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles according to claim 12.

15. (original) An aqueous wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

16. (original) A process for colouring wood, in which an aqueous wood stain according to claim 15 is used.

17. (cancelled)

18. (original) Wood coloured according to claim 16.

19. (original) A purely solvent-containing wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

20. (original) A process for colouring wood, in which a purely solvent-containing wood stain according to claim 19 is used.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original) Wood coloured according to claim 20.

23. (currently amended) A process for dyeing or printing semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic ~~fibre~~fiber material, in which one or more azo dyes according to claim 1 is/are applied to the hydrophobic fiber material ~~mentioned material~~ or incorporated therein.

24 - 25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A process according to claim 23, in which the hydrophobic fiber material consists of polyester ~~fibres~~ fibers.